

EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY

Wellington is home to the world's finest equestrian athletes, both riders and horses, and the most prestigious events in Polo, Show Jumping, and Dressage. Our equestrian season begins in November and runs through April. Our unique and distinctive equestrian community is host to nearly 9 million dollars in prize money, the Global Dressage Festival, the Nations Cup, The USPA Piaget Gold Cup and the United States Open Polo Championship. Wellington's equestrian community produces a combined impact of over 350 million dollars to Palm Beach County's economy every year. Our equestrian farms support three major venues (Hunter Jumper, Dressage & Polo) and property values reflect proximity to a venue arena. Farm sizes reflect land values, high land costs create small equestrian properties.



WELLINGTON - A GREAT HOME TOWN.....

The Village of Wellington began as a planned unit development in the early 1970's and became a municipality in 1996. There is a semblance the bucolic setting that the word Village implies in Wellington; however, what we really are is a vibrant community of 60,000 people and 12,500 horses at our peak. Our urban core is immediately recognizable as neighborhoods that allow families to thrive.



Money Magazine named Wellington one of the "50 Best Places to Live in 2016, and the National Council for Home Safety and Security called Wellington "One of the

Safest Cities in Florida" in 2017. Our equestrian community is distinctive and in many ways the heart of Wellington. It is not the rolling hills and pastoral settings found in Ocala but rather an exurban environment designed to keep horses close to the competitive arenas. Our equestrian community is our largest industry with horse densities ranging from our most common 4 per acre up to 50 horses per acre on the farms surrounding our three major equestrian venues. "Horse Farms" in Wellington range from 1 acre up to 200 acres with the most common sizes being either 2 or 5 acres. Properties and farms larger than 10 acres are the exception rather than the rule.

Renowned for our equestrian and polo events, Wellington is recognized as the "Winter Equestrian Capital of the World." Balancing the needs of our urban core and the needs of our equestrian community against flood control, water quality, traffic, and just plain livability is our biggest challenge. That challenge is reflected in our legislative agenda. We want Wellington to remain the great home town that it is, a place for people and horses. To make that happen our community needs the tools to protect both our urban and exurban lifestyles.



*Great Neighborhoods,
Great Schools and
Great Parks*

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING



Wellington Council

left to right top:

Michael J. Napoleone, Councilman, Tanya Siskind, Councilwoman,
Michael Drahos, Councilman

left to right bottom:

John T. McGovern, Vice Mayor, Anne Gerwig, Mayor

Paul Schofield, Manager

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2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

LOCAL REGULATION PREEMPTION HB 17

☒ **OPPOSE**

This bill defines terms; prohibits certain local governments from imposing or adopting certain regulations on businesses, professions, & occupations after certain date; preempts to state regulations concerning businesses, professions, & occupations; provides exceptions to preemption.

PUBLIC RECORDS

☒ **SUPPORT**

SB914 & HB919

Specifies conditions under which members of board or commission of state agency or authority or of agency or authority of county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision may participate in fact-finding exercises or excursions; provides for construction.

SB80

Requiring a complainant to timely provide certain written notice in order to be entitled to attorney fees in certain civil actions for enforcement of ch. 119, F.S., etc.

SB246

Revising the circumstances under which a court must assess and award the reasonable costs of enforcement against an agency in a civil action to enforce ch. 119, F.S.; prohibiting a court from assessing and awarding the reasonable costs of enforcement against an agency if certain conditions exist; specifying circumstances under which a complainant is not required to provide certain written notice of a public records request, etc.

HB163

Revises circumstances under which a court must assess & award reasonable costs of enforcement against an agency in a civil action to enforce ch. 119, F.S.; prohibits court from assessing & awarding reasonable costs of enforcement against an agency if certain conditions exist; specifies circumstances under which a complainant is not required to provide certain written notice of public record request.

SB864 & HB331

Requires that requests to inspect or copy records in the custody of a law enforcement agency be made to a certain individual.

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA PROJECT FOR FLOOD CONTROL AND OTHER PURPOSES SB816

☒ **SUPPORT**

Directing the South Florida Water Management District to take control of discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee and take a leadership role in the rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike; requiring the district to set a goal of increasing lake storage up to a specified amount to reduce certain discharges; specifying that the state does not waive sovereign immunity for torts relating to the dike or project, etc.

LOCAL BUSINESS TAX HB487

☒ **OPPOSE**

Authorize counties & municipalities to continue to levy local business taxes if resolution or ordinance was adopted by specified date; provides maximum amount of business tax & transfer fees that may be imposed; removes authority for counties & municipalities to increase business tax rates & to impose additional business taxes; removes exemption from apportionment requirements for certain counties; provides exemptions for veterans, veterans' spouses, active-duty military service members' spouses, & low-income persons. **Local Impact: Wellington 2016 BTR Revenue \$948m000 (4,441 licenses). Potential revenue loss of \$850,000 if capped at \$25.**

2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

LOCAL REGULATION PREEMPTION SB330

☒ **OPPOSE**

Prohibiting the governing bodies of counties and municipalities, respectively, from levying a local business tax that was not adopted before a specified date; deleting certain provisions that, for counties and municipalities, limit the rate of the tax and authorize increases of the tax; providing an exemption from the business tax, subject to certain conditions, to specified veterans, spouses of veterans and active service members, and low-income individuals, etc.

FLOOD INSURANCE HB420

☒ **SUPPORT**

Revising the intervals at which specified standards and guidelines for projecting certain rate filings must be revised by the Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology; authorizing certain insurers to issue insurance policies, contracts, or endorsements providing certain excess coverage for the peril of flood; specifying a condition for an eligible surplus lines insurer before a surplus lines agent may be excepted from a diligent-effort requirement when exporting flood insurance contracts or endorsements to the insurer, etc.

VACATION RENTALS HB425 & SB188

☒ **OPPOSE**

Providing that local laws, ordinances, and regulations adopted after a certain date may not restrict the use of, prohibit, or regulate vacation rentals based solely on their classification, use, or occupancy, etc.

VACATION RENTALS HB6003

☒ **WATCH CLOSELY**

Authorizes local laws, ordinances, & regulations to prohibit vacation rentals or regulate duration & frequency of rental of vacation rentals.

WELLINGTON'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & POSITIONS

Wellington seeks legislation that ensures the continued ability to maintain property values and quality of life that our residents have come to expect. Wellington generally supports the Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Agenda and to that end submits the following positions.

LOCAL REGULATION PREEMPTION

- ☒ HB17 Local Regulation Preemption
- ☒ SB330 Local Regulation Preemption

PUBLIC RECORDS

- ☒ HB919 Public Records
- ☒ SB914 Public Records
- ☒ SB80 Public Records
- ☒ SB246 Public Records
- ☒ HB163 Public Records
- ☒ HB331 Public Records
- ☒ SB864 Public Records

CENTRAL & SOUTHERN FL PROJECT FOR FLOOD CONTROL & OTHER PURPOSES

- ☒ SB816 Ctr & Sth FL Project for Flood Control

LOCAL BUSINESS TAX

- ☒ HB487 Local Business Tax

FLOOD INSURANCE

- ☒ HB420 Flood Insurance

VACATION RENTALS

- ☒ SB188 Vacation Rentals
- ☒ HB425 Vacation Rentals
- ☒ HB 6003 Vacation Rentals

☒ **SUPPORT** ☒ **OPPOSE** ☒ **Watch Closely**

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING 2017